IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Akira Shirakura et al.

Serial No.:

Filed : April 13, 2004

For : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING PRINT

Group A.U.:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, which is a division of application serial no. 10/149,723 filed June 13, 2002, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this Amendment.

The Remarks portion begins on page 5 of this Preliminary Amendment.